

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 1-9 are pending.

The Examiner finds patentable subject matter in claim 2 and indicates that this claim would be allowed if rewritten in suitable independent form.

However, claims 1, 3, 4, and 7-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0085193 to Ohtomo et al. Moreover, claims 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Ohtomo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,382,510 to Ni.

Applicants' Reply

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claim 2. Further, as suggested by the Examiner, applicants have appended independent claim 10, which incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 2.

Applicants respectfully traverse the prior art rejections of claims 1-9. However, in order to expedite the issuance of patent on this application, applicants have cancelled these claims. Applicants do so without prejudice to their rights to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in one or more related applications.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claim is in condition for allowance. Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge payment of any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 02-4377. In the event that the application is not deemed in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in an effort to advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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